



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590

03/20/2002

H. Steve Ngo
Paul and Paul
2900 Two Thousand Market St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

EXAMINER

ESTREMSKY, GARY WAYNE

ART UNIT

CLASS-SUBCLASS

3627

292-131000

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2002

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,489	03/07/2001	Lianli Ji	055-01	4749

TITLE OF INVENTION: GRAVITY-SENSITIVE LATCH

TOTAL CLAIMS	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
34	nonprovisional	NO	\$1280	\$300	\$1580	06/20/2002

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above. If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

B. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
09/801,489Applicant(s)
Ji

Examiner

Gary Estremsky

Art Unit

3627



--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to telephone interview of March 11, 2002.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 23-36, 38-53, and 55-58.
3. The drawings filed on Mar 7, 2001 are acceptable as formal drawings.
4. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) Noneof the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

6. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>7</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449), Paper No(s). <u>3</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Interview SummaryApplication No.
09/801,489Applicant(s)
Ji

Examiner

Gary Estremsky

Group Art Unit

3627

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Gary Estremsky

(3) _____

(2) John Simkanich

(4) _____

Date of Interview Mar 11, 2002Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
c) Personal [copy is given to 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No. If yes, brief description:Claim(s) discussed: 1-22

Identification of prior art discussed:

noneAgreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:

Applicant's representative indicated that claims 1-22 could be cancelled by Examiner's Amendment (attached).

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

i) It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview (if box is checked).

Unless the paragraph above has been checked, THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

10

Art Unit: 3627



DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Simkanich, Registration No. 26,036 on March 11, 2002.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Cancel claims 1-22.

Remarks

3. The examiner notes that Applicant has included a paper with the amendment filed on January 16, 2002 having the heading "Information Disclosure Statement". The examiner notes that an Information Disclosure Statement identically listing that prior art was filed on June 13, 2001. The examiner considered copies of the documents listed thereon to the extent possible, initialed the I.D.S. as appropriate and included a copy of the signed document with the first Office Action on the merits, mailed July 20, 2001.

Art Unit: 3627

As noted at that time:

"The information disclosure statement filed June 13, 2001 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent; each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Due to the quality of the photographs provided and complete lack of functional/structural description, the examiner cannot determine if the "Suzuki Latch", "Toyota Latch", Nissan or Mazda Latch", "Lexus Latch", "Latch", or "Nissan Latch" (items 1-6) are relevant to the claimed invention or not. Accordingly, the latches illustrated therein could not be considered and the portions of the I.D.S. corresponding to these items have not been initialed."

Essentially, the photos listed on the I.D.S. do not provide sufficient disclosure to raise a *prima facie* case for teaching or making obvious the limitations of the present invention.

However, since it cannot be determined from the photos alone, if the subject structures of those photos do not teach or make obvious the claimed invention, each appropriate I.D.S. listing of those photos has not been initialed. Applicant was timely informed of the above during prosecution and a signed copy of the first I.D.S. is provided with this Office action where it should be noted that the listed items that could not be fully considered have been lined through and have not been initialed.

The additional copy now provided by Applicant remains with the Papers of the Application and has been marked "COPY".

Art Unit: 3627

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 23-36, 38-53, and 55-58 are allowed.

Conclusion

5. Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3627's facsimile number is **(703) 305-3597**. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly within our examining group and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time and will bypass the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence not permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a Deposit Account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check should not be submitted by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 305-3597) on _____

(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the

Art Unit: 3627

processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary Estremsky whose telephone number is (703) 308 - 0494. The examiner can normally be reached on M - Th from 730 am to 600 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Matecki, can be reached on (703) 308-2688. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3597.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

GWE

March 14, 2002


GARY ESTREMSKY
PRIMARY EXAMINER